ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The invention provides a binding polypeptide, or functional fragment thereof, comprising a k_{on} of at least about 9×10^7 $M^{-1}s^{-1}$ for associating with a ligand and having therapeutic potency. The invention also provides a method of determining the therapeutic potency of a binding polypeptide. The methods consist of (a) contacting a binding polypeptide with a ligand; (b) measuring association rate for binding between the binding polypeptide and the ligand, and (c) comparing the association rate for the binding polypeptide to an association rate for a therapeutic control, the relative association rate for the binding polypeptide compared to the association rate for the therapeutic control indicating that the binding polypeptide will exhibit a difference in therapeutic potency correlative with the difference between the association rates.